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Island of Kaua'i

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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808-541-2600

websites: <http://www.hi.nrcs.usda.gov/nri> or
<http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/NRI>

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Island of Maui

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Island of O'ahu

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Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Hawaii

Kenneth M. Kaneshiro
State Conservationist

Our People...Our Islands...In Harmony

National Resources Inventory (NRI)

Hawaii Highlights

The National Resources Inventory (NRI) is a statistically based survey that has been designed and implemented using scientific principles to assess conditions and trends of soil, water, and related resources on non-Federal lands in the United States—nearly 75 percent of the Nation's total land area. The NRI is conducted by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in cooperation with the Iowa State University Statistical Laboratory. The 1997 NRI captures data on land cover and use, soil erosion, prime farmland soils, wetlands, habitat diversity, selected conservation practices, and related resource attributes at more than 800,000 scientifically selected sample sites.



Data for the Hawaii 1997 NRI was collected from more than 1,000 locations in the state by NRCS field personnel, resource inventory specialists, and remote sensing data collectors.

January 2000

About the NRI:

The Hawaii NRI provides a record of trends in the State's resources over time. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducts inventories every 5 years.

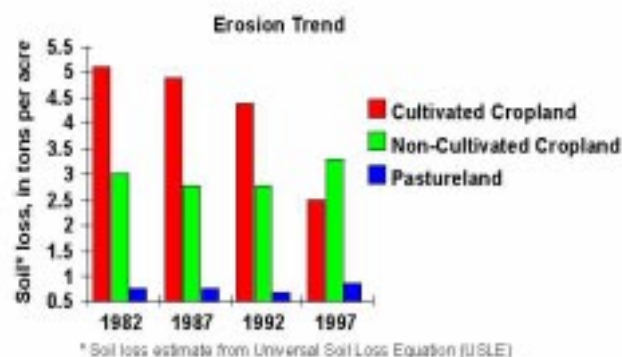
What does the NRI show for Hawaii?

The total land base of the main Hawaiian Islands is 4,104,700 acres. Of this total, 3,716,700* acres is non-Federal land, of which 185,500 acres (5 percent) is developed and 3,531,200 acres (95 percent) is rural. Federal land totaled 388,000 acres in 1997.

Hawaii's 3,531,200 acres of rural land includes cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, and miscellaneous rural land. This represents a decrease in non-Federal rural land of 100,500 acres since 1982.

Erosion Reductions in Hawaii:

In 1997 average total erosion rates on cropland in Hawaii decreased by 2.20 tons/acre/year compared with 1982 rates. Improvement in the erosion rate in 1997 was significant in cultivated cropland areas where the rate decreased by half from 5.1 to 2.5 tons/acre/year since 1982. However, in non-cultivated cropland areas, the erosion rate increased slightly from 3.0 tons/acre/year in 1982 to 3.3 tons/acre/year in 1997.

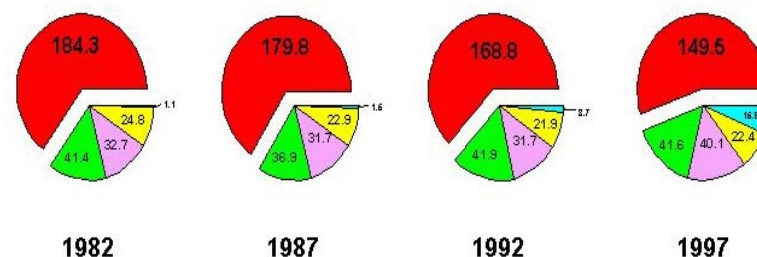


*All acreage figures (except total acres of Hawaii) is determined statistically and therefore is approximate.

What's happening to Hawaii's Prime Farmland?

Prime farmland has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage and fiber. Total prime farmland loss in Hawaii equals 15,900 acres from 1982 to 1997. This represents a 6 percent loss since 1982. However, only about 400 acres of this total were lost between 1992 and 1997. Nationally, there has been a 3.4 percent loss of prime farmland from 1982 to 1997. Hawaii is losing prime farmland at a rate that is 76 percent higher than the national average.

Trend in Prime Farmland Use (Thousands of Acres)



Landuse	1982	1987	1992	1997
Cultivated Cropland	184.3	179.8	168.8	149.5
Pastureland	41.4	36.9	41.9	41.6
Rangeland	32.7	31.7	31.7	40.1
Forest land	24.8	22.9	21.9	22.4
Other Rural Land	1.1	1.5	3.7	15.9